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# GENERAL

1. Schuman's views on Saar agreements--US Ambassador Bruce in Paris has been informed by French Foreign Minister Schuman that he has no intention of entering into any agreement with the Saar that does not specifically provide that the agreement is "in every respect" subject to an eventual peace treaty. Schuman added that he felt such a provision would largely still the present excitement over the issue. Although Schuman would not promise that French leases on Saar coal mines would not extend beyond the date of a peace treaty, he pointed out that the proposed 50-year period for the leases was simply a suggestion of technical experts. The French Foreign Minister was not willing to postpone the opening of the Franco-Saar conference (scheduled for 7 February), but he indicated that the negotiations will require a long time and could be deliberately lengthened. (German Chancellor Adenauer has indicated his strong opposition to any hasty decisions regarding the Saar.) Schuman emphatically asserted that the Saar difficulties would not alter the determination of the French Government to have West Germany become an associate member of the Council of Europe.

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2. Interpretation of "new" Soviet attitude--US Ambassador Kirk in Moscow interprets Vishinsky's reply to Secretary Acheson's recent statement concerning Soviet imperialism in China as one more example of the "rashness" being displayed by Soviet officials as they become convinced that the Soviet position is improving and the Western position deteriorating. As further evidence of Soviet "rashness," Kirk points to recent aggressive statements of top Soviet officials and to the Communist treatment of Western

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nationals and property in China and Eastern Europe. Kirk expresses the opinion that the increasing Soviet aggressiveness is a reflection of Stalin's belief that with China won and an economic crisis developing in the West, he need no longer placate the US or try to "mask his intentions" for furthering a world revolution.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that the recently increased Soviet pressure represents a continuation of the Communist strategy of challenging any Western positions which appear weak.)

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